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Central America Update Key Democrat Opposes Zablocki-Boland

President Reagan has received some good news on the Central American front: Rep. Dante Fascell (D.-Fla.), a key member of the House Foreign Affairs panel, is the first major Democrat in the House to break with the so far solid Democratic majority that favors cutting off the Nicaraguan anti-Communist rebels at the knees.

Zablocki-Boland, as our readers know, would halt all U.S. aid—both covert and overt—to the pro-democratic and anti-Communist forces in Sandinista-ruled Managua, which has become the headquarters for the Communist revolutionaries in El Salvador. It has also become a major center to spread communism to the rest of Central America.

While 20 Democrats on the Foreign Affairs panel, headed by Rep. Clement Zablocki (D.-Wis.), voted for Zablocki-Boland, two Democrats actively opposed it, Fascell (the No. 2 Democrat on Foreign Affairs) and Rep. Andy Ireland (Fla.). A third Democrat, Rep. Dan Mica (D.-Fla.), had misgivings, remarking in separate views that he voted for it, but would really like to see an approach "that would come very close to the Broomfield amendment." Defeated on an almost strictly party-line vote, Broomfield would have cut off aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, but only after it was clear that Nicaragua was no longer spreading revolution in Central America.

Fascell's views were not wholly in accord with the Administration's, but he did tell us that he favors what we're doing now, until there's a better approach. Fascell said "the present action has given us some leverage, as unpleasant as some people find it." But he eventually hopes for a different Administration course that doesn't involve covert aid.

The Florida Democrat, in his written dissent, also took a slam at Zablocki-Boland because "it does not come to grips with the complex problem we face of Soviet penetration of the entire Central American isthmus." And the bill "finesses a crucial humanitarian concern: by imposing a 'secret' cut-off date for covert assistance which is not much of a secret, it would put at risk the lives of those who believe they were given a commitment."

Nevertheless, Zablocki-Boland is moving forward in the House, now having been approved by both the House Intelligence Committee and the Foreign Affairs panel.

Meanwhile, those Democrats who want to eliminate aid to the Nicaraguan anti-Communists received a setback last week when a knowledgeable Sandinista defector, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, who served in the government's department of state security, shed additional light on Nicaragua's efforts to create a Communist Central America.

The 24-year-old Bolanos, who escaped by hijacking a plane to Costa Rica seven weeks ago, was made available to reporters by the State Department, although Bolanos did his talking at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank.

Bolanos apparently passed a lie-detector test in Costa Rica, and is considered a reliable witness by a number of Latin American experts at the State Department. The *Washington Post*, which was given first crack at Bolanos, questioned him for 13 hours, then ran his story on the front page of its Sunday edition.

Bolanos, in an interview with a small group of reporters at Heritage, including one from HUMAN EVENTS, made the following points:

- The Sandinistas, from the very beginning of their rule in 1979, were interested in spreading revolution beyond their borders. From their initial takeover, "they started sending [to the Salvadoran revolutionaries] arms in large quantities, in all possible ways, by high-speed boats through the Gulf of Fonseca, by land on mule, by small plane and by trucks." When the anti-Communist forces in Nicaragua started "hitting hard," this made things more difficult for the Sandinistas so far as aid to El Salvador was concerned.

- In Costa Rica, "they wanted to create subversion against the democracy" which the Costa

Ricans are living under. "They [the Sandinistas] have developed...armed terrorists within Costa Rica to destabilize the economy, politics, the political system," and they have "influence within the labor unions. They have spent a lot of money on

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